Flashback
Journal of the Washington County Historical Society
Volume 69, No. 4
Winter 2019

Roy Brumfield and Fayetteville's Downtown Motor Lodge:

Chronicles of the Mountain Inn

The 1960s Mountain Inn Motor Lodge, facing east onto College Avenue

Washington County Historical Society

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Submissions

Flashback (ISSN: 0428-5573) is published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall, and winter as an official publication of the Washington County Historical Society. Send all materials for publication to: *Flashback* Editor, Washington County Historical Society, 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

There is no payment for articles published in *Flashback*. The editor retains the right to edit all submitted articles prior to publication.

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Society membership is invited to those interested in preservation of Washington County history. Annual dues (January 2020) for categories of members are: Senior, Student, Public Library, $20; General, $30; Trail Blazer, $50; Explorer $100; Wagon Master, $250; Pioneer, $500; Statesperson, $1,000; Empire Builder, $5,000.

Members are mailed *Flashback* each quarter. Available past issues are $6 each, postpaid. Add $1 postage for issues printed in 1951 through February 1972. Web site: washcohistoricalsociety.org or headquartershouse.org.

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Preserving our past for future generations

Volume 69 Winter 2019 Number 4

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Editor's Note:

The Winter issue of *Flashback* is devoted to the tale of Fayetteville's Mountain Inn, as told by Denele Campbell. The article is the winner of the 2019 Lessie Stringfellow Read prize awarded annually by the Washington County Historical Society for the best article about Fayetteville. Campbell tracks the roots of the inn from its founding in 1872 as the Jennings Hotel, through its years of success followed by financial catastrophe.

On the Cover: A 1960s photograph of the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge facing east toward South College Avenue. A sign on the tower promotes the pool, which was located on the third and fourth levels and offered cabañas and drinks to guests.

Roy Brumfield & Fayetteville's Downtown Motor Lodge

A History of the Mountain Inn

By Denele Campbell

From early adulthood forward, Roy Brumfield's life centered at Fayetteville's Mountain Inn. An impassioned host and community booster, Brumfield's creative thinking and dynamic energy helped bring about the Fayetteville airport and the now-notorious Mountain Inn Motor Lodge–of which nothing but a scarred footprint remains. The hotel, opened in 1962, offered state of the art accommodations to the community and travelers. But alas for Brumfield, the Lodge that broke his heart was years ahead of its time.

The Brumfields and the Hotel Business

Born June 20, 1896, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to Thomas "Tom" Jefferson and Melissa Lambert Brumfield, Roy followed a lineage of early American farmers going back to his eighth great-grandfather Thomas Brumfield, born about 1613 in East Sussex, England, and buried at the American colony of Virginia in 1699. Farming remained the Brumfield family's occupation down through the generations to Roy's grandfather Jasper Newton Brumfield. It was Roy's father Tom who wanted to do something that didn't involve the hard labor of farming, and the wildly popular tourist town of nearby Eureka Springs offered him new opportunities.

Arkansas native Denele Campbell tracks her family's roots in the state back to the early 1800s. Her writings on local history include articles published in Flashback *and several books. A 19th century history of the West Fork Valley is Campbell's most recent work.*

The Washington Hotel in Fayetteville, 1910s. Courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History / Bob Besom Collection (S-82-159-2)

By 1890 and possibly as early as 1883, the extended Brumfield family had settled in Eureka Springs, Carroll County, Arkansas. During this period, the town enjoyed its peak as an exotic retreat to wealthy tourists seeking the healing waters of the town's many springs. By the turn of the century, Eureka Springs sported more than 30 hotels, a new railroad depot, 18 grocery stores, two milliners, two tailors, five photography studios, nine jewelry stores, and two banks.[1] Here in 1890, 23-year-old Tom and his young wife Melissa gained a daughter they named Ethel Juanita. Six years later, their son Thomas Leroy "Roy" was born.

At the time of the 1900 federal census for Eureka Springs, Tom, then 33, worked at a hotel under the ownership of 74-year-old New Yorker Hannah Vincent. Also at this location were Hannah's parents from Holland, a bookkeeper, cattleman, two civil engineers, clerk, three waiters, and Tom's wife Melissa along with their two children Ethel and Roy. Over these years, Tom managed the Wadsworth Hotel (later known as the Allred) and then the Basin Park Hotel, all of these residencies offering a wide-eyed view of the world to young Roy.

In 1914, the Brumfield family moved to Fayetteville where Tom took over the duties of managing the brick three-story Washington Hotel located on the southwest corner of the town square. This was the footprint of the previous City Hotel, destroyed in the 1880 tornado, and its successor the Glass Hotel (Tremont) built in 1905.

At the time of the 1920 federal census, Tom and Melissa

were "hotel keepers" at the Washington. Staff employed under Tom Brumfield's supervision included three waitresses, a porter, clerk, and housekeeper. The Brumfields enjoyed success there. One 1916 society page notice remarked that Mrs. Brumfield "entertained at the Washington Hotel parlors with a three table bridge" party.[2] At the Rotary Club's 1922 Ladies Night banquet, Melissa was acclaimed as the "most popular": she "ministers to the wants of the Rotarian man, thus exemplifying the old saw about the best way to reach the masculine heart," evidently referring to her culinary skill.[3] Melissa was also noted as "champion lady golf player of Fayetteville."[4]

Roy Brumfield, age 23 in 1920 and back from his 15-month stint as a pilot in the Army Air Service, worked as the bus driver for the hotel.[5] On December 24, 1920, Roy married Nora Mae Carl at her family home in Prairie Grove.

In 1921, eager to increase his livelihood in support of his new wife, Roy purchased a local grocery located at 24 East Center:

> *The Brumfield Cash Grocery was opened this morning at the stand formerly occupied by the bankrupt I. T. C. [Industrial Transportation Company], stock and fixtures of which were bought under the hammer Saturday afternoon by Jay Fulbright and on the same afternoon sold to Mr. Brumfield.*
>
> *The new store will dispense with the cash and carry system and is ready to give every attention to its patrons. Mr. Brumfield is having some improvements made in the store and will gradually increase the stock. He will also install a truck delivery system."*[6]

PHONE FOR YOUR GROCERIES
OUR DELIVERY MEANS "SUDDEN SERVICE"
It saves you time and your order will be given the same personal attention as if you called in person.
Fresh Green Vegetables and Fruits arriving daily, deliveries made any hour, give us a month's trial, you'll find we appreciate your business.
PHONE 71 AND 72
BRUMFIELD'S CASH GROCERY
"Good Things for the Table"
Fayetteville Daily Democrat multiple dates 1923

In March 1922, Roy's ambitions for the Brumfield Grocery included the purchase of a "Commercial Car" from the new Dodge dealership, Holt Motor Company on East Street, Fayetteville. Regular advertisements promoting the grocery's fresh stock ran frequently in the local newspaper as did mentions of the store's two telephone lines available to take customer orders.

In November 1922, Roy sold part interest in the grocery to J. M. Harrison of Prairie Grove. His enterprise faced stiff competition,

with up to ten other grocers offering foodstuffs in the area of the town square.

The end of Roy's first business adventure came in June 1923, when he and Harrison sold out to E. T. Caudle, former manager of the Industrial Transportation Companies' branch store (that Brumfield had purchased) and manager of the Farmer's Exchange. The announcement of the sale stated that "Mr. Brumfield will probably be associated with his father at the Washington Hotel."[7]

While he may have assisted in some ways with his father's management of the Washington, the following year Roy managed the Hodges Café on Dickson Street, an arrangement that ended in June 1924 when the owner Tom Hodges returned from a year's stay in California. That December, Roy moved his family to Camden, Arkansas, where he would run the newly constructed Orlando Hotel under a lease arrangement.[8] The Orlando had been a $130,000 investment by the Main Hotel Stock Company and named after one of the original stockholders, long time Camden resident Orlando Lide. The hotel featured 70 rooms and four apartments.[9]

How Roy fared as manager of the new Orlando is not known. By 1927 and possibly sooner, Roy was no longer in that post. At the first hint of a more promising position back in Fayetteville, he returned. That was when James A. Ward, Sr. sought an experienced hotelier to run his new investment property in Fayetteville.

Ward Buys and Renames Hotel, Then Leases to Brumfields

Motivated by the offer of several thousand dollars to relocate from Huntsville, Alabama, James A. Ward of Ward Furniture Company moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, in May 1903 with $75,000 in capital stock. The company was written up in the 1910 edition of *The Lumber World* magazine where, among other things, it was remarked that Ward had found eager markets in his sales travels to the West.[10] A 1919 article listed Ward's company among a half dozen Fort Smith firms thriving in the furniture manufacturing trade.[11] By 1923, Ward had become one of Fort Smith's largest furniture companies, primarily producing bedroom furniture. "At that time, [Ward] specialized in an old-fashioned piece where the front edge of it rolled over being made of plywood that had been sawn in the back and could be bent for this rounded effect. They called it waterfall bedroom furniture."[12]

Factory improvements in 1921 included a new building and new machinery, and Ward reported increased capital stock the next year from $160,000 to $300,000. In 1923, the company again increased its capital stock to $400,000 based on sales increases in 1922

from $500,000 to total $1.5 million for the year.

The Wards lived well and looked to the mountains of Washington County for their vacations. Ward's son and business partner, James A. Ward, Jr., had purchased property at Winslow in the Winslow Park Club in 1910, an exclusive reserve of summer homes for wealthy property owners who coveted the cooler climes at the top of the Boston Mountains. The lots were subject to stringent restrictions on use.[13] He bought additional property there in 1924. In 1923, James Sr. purchased property on the Methodist Assembly Grounds in Fayetteville for what he described as a "summer cottage," ultimately a total of six lots, agreeing to specific deed restrictions including that he "shall not sell said land or any part thereof to any person of negro blood."

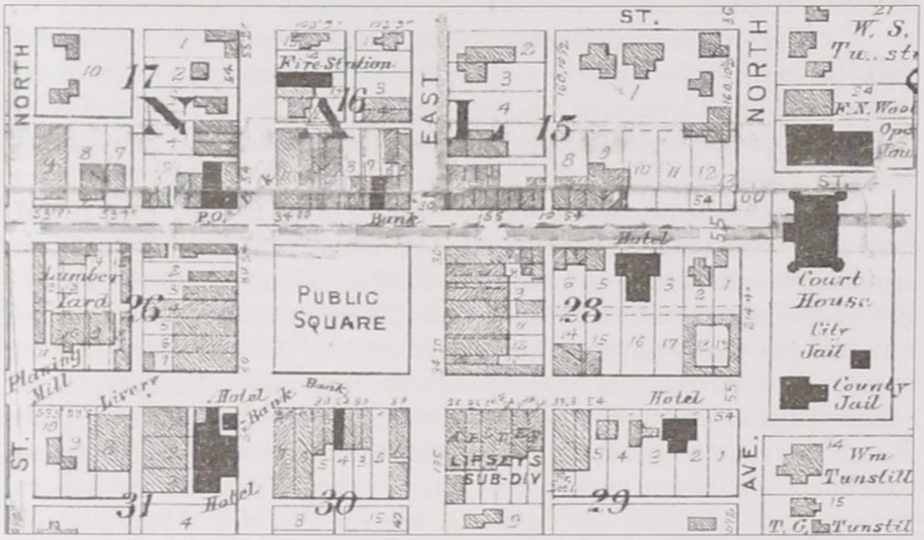
These profits and real estate investments by the Wards put them in position that same year, 1923, to purchase downtown property in Fayetteville. Ward chose the Mountain Inn.[14]

Built in 1872 by Thomas Jennings, the three-story red brick structure now known as the Mountain Inn on Center Street in Fayetteville was originally named the Jennings Hotel and occupied Lots 3 and 4 and the east half of Lot 5 of Block 28. The structure included a wide porch on the Center Street side and an expansive lawn to the east and was served by Jennings' livery and feed stable slightly further east. The hotel suffered extensive damage in the 1880 tornado and subsequent owners rebuilt and changed the name to the Mountain House during which time it served primarily as a boarding house. Under new owners in 1896, it was known as the Oriental Hotel. The hotel held space for up to 50 guests and each room had its own fireplace. A large dining room served up to 100 guests.[15]

By the time of Ward's purchase of the hotel from Margaret Taylor in October 1923, he was the seventh owner of the hotel property. He paid $12,650 with a down payment of $5,650 and the balance of $7,000 financed at six percent by Taylor. Ward changed the name to the Mountain Inn, removed the porch, and added a front lobby that extended closer to the street. There he inserted a coffee shop, now the location of A Taste of Thai restaurant and Petra Café.[16]

On June 11, 1929, Ward expanded his footprint eastward when he purchased Lot 2 of Block 28 in a partnership with Industrial Finance Company. The contract specified his plans were

> *...to erect on said lot of land a certain three story (above basement) brick building, and to make certain connections with the certain three story brick wall already erected to the West side of said lot, and which forms a part of the East wall of a certain hotel building, known as "Mountain Inn" and owned by party of*



The map above is from the 1909 Washington County plat of Fayetteville. The "T" shaped footprint of the Mountain Inn is between the Court House and Public Square, and faces Center Street, near North Avenue on the right side of the map. A smaller hotel is seen one block south facing Mountain Street. The Washington Hotel is located on the southwest corner of the Square. Washington County Archives, 1908 Plat of Fayetteville. https://www.co.washington.ar.us/home/showdocument?id=11339

> *the second part [Ward] to make due and just compensation for the privilege of so joining to and connecting with said East wall…*[17]

The contract, signed by the Industrial Finance Company's president, William Hayden McIlroy, and its secretary L. H. Kempton, as well as James A. and Bess C. Ward, further specified that the portion of the East wall of the Mountain Inn with dimensions of 33 1/2 feet by one foot in width was valued at $1,242. One half that value was paid by Industrial Finance. A sum of $200 was paid by Ward as full payment for the use of the new structure on Lot 2. The parties agreed that halls or corridors would connect on the second and third floors of the two buildings, stipulating that fire proof automatic doors would attach at these connections.[18]

Predating this agreement by nearly a month, Industrial Finance Company had executed a mortgage and bonds to finance the construction of a three-story brick and stone building (with full basement) on Lot 2, with the second and third floors to be used as an annex to the Mountain Inn Hotel, to consist of 36 furnished rooms.

The first floor and basement were meant for business and commercial purposes and over the coming decades would serve as a

mainstay location for many different enterprises.

The Industrial Finance Company covered the estimated $40,000 expense for construction of the annex through $1,000 bonds that would earn 5 percent interest through the 10-year term. The finance company immediately transferred the contract and financing to McIlroy Bank.[19]

Simultaneous to the contracts described above, Tom Brumfield and wife as well as Roy Brumfield and wife signed a 10-year lease agreement with James A. Ward, Sr., for the "Hotel Mountain Inn together with the furniture, fixtures, and furnishings therein for a sum of $12,000 per year," payable at $1,000 monthly.[20] The Brumfields were to bear the expense of any repairs or replacements. Painting and some repairs in plastering and "the extension of seventeen feet of the Coffee Room" were to be made by Ward prior to the effective lease date. An amended agreement executed in June 1929 specified the Brumfields as lessees of the newly-completed Annex for $4,320 per year payable at $360 per month in advance and carrying 10 percent interest. The lessors, the Industrial Finance Company, agreed to furnish "durable" furniture including "1 bed, springs and mattress, 1 dresser, 1 writing desk, 2 chairs, 1 floor carpet, 1 luggage stool, necessary window draperies and gas fixtures including shaving mirror."[21] Lessees were to provide heat, water, and light.

At the time of the 1930 federal census, the extended Brumfield family resided at the Mountain Inn, with Tom and wife Melissa occupying as proprietors alongside fellow proprietor Roy, his wife Nora, and their two sons Jack age eight and Thomas age six.

Roy Brumfield and Fayetteville Commerce, Tourism

Evidently a gregarious and ambitious young man, Roy Brumfield took an active role in the Fayetteville business community. Fresh from his experience as a World War I aviator, he–along with P. G. Walker and Hugh Rogers–formed the Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee in 1927, advocating for a Fayetteville landing field.[22]

This became the Fayetteville airport, even though it would be a decade before rumbles of war in Europe triggered federal funding to upgrade the landing field.

Sometime before 1932, Roy Brumfield leased the Johnson spring and established the Ozark Trout Farm where he built a fish hatchery and raceways.[23] A news item that year reported on events at "Brumfield Park" near Johnson.[24] Multiple events through the early 1940s included a fish fry and basket dinner for Benton and Washington county doctors and families,[25] family picnics for congregants of the

First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, and picnics or recreational events for various professional and university groups.

A 1941 news item stated:

> *Over 100 hotel men and wives, expected to attend the mid-year Arkansas Hotel association convention at Fort Smith Saturday and Sunday, will come to Fayetteville Sunday as guests of Roy Brumfield for a noon fish fry, scheduled at the Brumfield Fish Hatchery, three miles northwest of town. Prominent hotel men from all over Arkansas and several out-of-state owners, including John Mayo of Tulsa's Mayo Hotel and Frank Shutt, vice president and manager of the Peabody in Memphis, will attend the Fort Smith convention and the local event. Fort Smith's Goldman and Ward hotels will be hosts to the visitors over the weekend.*[26]

During this period, Roy's wife Nora worked at the Boston Store on the square, an upscale Fayetteville department store. The extent of her duties there is not known, but her buying trip to New York City in July 1936 brought Nora to the 1936 and 1937 fashion conference.[27] The young couple kept busy working and raising two sons, probably with the generous help of grandparents.

Nora and Roy's marriage failed sometime before 1936. Roy remarried to Katherine "Kay" Prichard, a native of Essex County, Massachusetts. Massachusetts vital records suggest the marriage occurred in 1936. However, the trip described in the following news item from 1938 may have been a honeymoon. She was 13 years younger than Roy with three years of Smith College under her belt. She had married in 1929 to Roger Haskell but that couple's listing in local Massachusetts directories last appeared in 1934.

> *Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brumfield returned Saturday from an extended trailer trip east. On Nantucket Island, Mass., they visited Mrs. Brumfield's mother, Mrs. Charles Prichard for several days and then went with her to [her] Bennington apartment at Marblehead. They also took a short trip to the White mountains in New Hampshire. Returning home, they visited New York City, Philadelphia, and stopped in Washington D.C. two days where they were entertained aboard the Secretary of Navy's private ship, U.S.S. Sequoia, by the commanding officer, Lieut. Norman Lears, who took them down the Potomac to Mt. Vernon and up the Chesapeake to Annapolis, Maryland.*[28]

By 1937, Roy and his new wife Kay lived at 127 Davidson,

evidently with his sons Jack and Tom who were 15 and 14 years of age. There is no public record of custody arrangements, but the boys must have remained in Fayetteville where they finished high school and attended the university.[29] The *Fayetteville City Directory* shows Tom Brumfield, Roy's father, living next door at 128 Davidson.[30]

The 1940 federal census for Roy and Kay's household in Fayetteville included Roy's widowed mother Melissa (his father Tom Brumfield died in 1939) and his younger son Thomas. His older son, Jack Leroy, had begun his second year of study as an engineering student at the University of Arkansas.

In his senior year at Fayetteville High School, Jack LeRoy Brumfield had starred in football, was a member of the band and National Council [debate], and co-editor of the *Junior Times*, a weekly publication of the high school journalism class. As of February 1939, he had been accepted at Annapolis.[31] After the December 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, Jack enlisted in the Army Air Corps in March 1942 and completed training at Majors army air field at Greenville, Texas, in December that year and would go on to advanced flying school at Foster Field at Victoria, Texas.

Thomas Jefferson "Tommy" Brumfield, the younger son, was elected vice-president of his junior class in 1939. In 1940, the Fayetteville High School football player became vice-president of the senior class. In delivering the commencement address, he captured high praise in local media.

> *Tommie Brumfield revealed undoubted talent for oratory on the recent high school commencement, his delivery being outstanding. His commencement address was so apt to the times and of such a thoroughly American tone that the Springdale Rotary club has invited him to deliver it before that body at its next meeting.*[32]

The following school year, Tommy became an honor student at Franklin-Marshall Academy, a venerable private liberal arts college at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.[33] During World War II, Franklin-Marshall was one of 131 colleges and universities nationally that took part in the V-12 Navy College Training Program which offered students a path to a Navy commission. In 1944 Tom was accepted to attend school at Texas Christian University at Fort Worth to complete his pre-med courses. The news item mentions that he had previously attended the University of Arkansas.[34]

In a 1943 notice about their maternal grandfather John Carl, the boys were described as Lieut. Jack Brumfield and Pharmacist Mate Tommy Brumfield.[35]

During the early weeks leading up to World War II, Kay pursued her own projects. At a regular meeting of the local chapter of the Psi Chi, National Honor Society of Psychology, she presented a paper entitled "Insulin Shock and Treatment from a Psychological Standpoint."[36] She served as chair of the health committee with the Business and Professional Women's Club (1941). In 1942, she headed Red Cross classes in first aid and served as drive chair in the Bundles for Britain effort, a volunteer organization in which Fayetteville led the state. "Each item bought, whether a penny matchbook, a dime pencil or a $2.50 emblem pin means some margin of profit to aid Britain's civilians suffering from the devastation of war," she said in a news release.[37]

Now In Africa

LT. JACK L. BRUMFIELD

LT. JACK L. BRUMFIELD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brumfield of Fayetteville, is a fighting pilot with the American air forces now stationed in North Africa with the 325th unit. He has seen service in two major engagements, one in Sicily and one in Italy. Only recently he was awarded his five oak leaf clusters and received recommendation for promotion. He graduated from the Fayetteville high school, attended the Randall naval preparatory school in Washington, D. C., returned here for a year and a half at the University of Arkansas and volunteered for service with the army aviation corps. He went abroad in May after having received his training, wings and commission from Foster Field, Texas.

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In 1940, a "Monarch" pin for 10 years of continuous membership in the Lions Club was presented to Roy and five other men. That same year, Kay and Roy became members and officers of the Washington County Wildlife Association. Kay served as steering committee chair for the county civilian defense group formed in May 1941. Roy was still operating the fish hatchery in Johnson, and above all else, he and Kay still saw to the management of the Mountain Inn and its Annex.

Roy Brumfield's world changed forever in February 1944 when notification came that his older son Jack was missing in action over Italy. He'd been among the first to pilot a Thunderbolt fighter plane in the Mediterranean area. Dread of what news might come next soon ended with verification that he'd been shot down off the coast of Sicily on January 22. With the war in its most intense throes, his body could not be sent home. He was buried just south of Rome at Nettuno, Italy.[38]

A month after his son's death, Roy Brumfield sold his fish farm and volunteered for the Fayetteville Selective Service Board. No record remains of his emotional suffering in this loss–he probably wanted to climb into a bomber cockpit and take up his son's place in the fight. Roy served on the draft board from 1944 until 1965, in the role of chairman from 1950 onward.

Roy served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and continued his work at the hotel. Business activity along the block of East Center where the hotel was located included many shops and food establishments. Within the walls of the Mountain Inn and the Mountain Inn Annex (also referred to as the Arcade Building), patrons depended on the Blue Moon Cafeteria (1940-1949,

superseded by Ferguson's Cafeteria), Blue Moon Coffee Shop, the Arcade Barber Shop, two insurance company offices, offices of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Finance Company, a children's clothing store (1943-1956), Center Cigar & Liquor Store (1949-1961), and Lonnie Hall's men's suit shop. In the 1930s, the basement housed the American Legion Snooker Parlor.

The Blue Moon Cafeteria and its successor, Ferguson's Cafeteria, were favored lunch spots for the legal community (among others) and remembered fondly.

> *Ferguson's Cafeteria served home-style food—chicken fried steak, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, pies of all kinds. They offered a chicken pot pie, Attorney Jack Butt especially remembered. "A big dish with little donut shaped pieces of crust on top. The scoop came with filling plus your donut piece. I enjoyed that so much."*[39]

Ferguson's closed in 1964, and the Hoffbrau Steak House took its place. Most recently the space houses Damgoode Pies. The Annex basement included a nightspot featuring drinks and live bands, a celebrated watering hole for at least two decades. Many other businesses and agencies occupied the various rooms of the extended Mountain Inn over the coming years, a prime location a half block from the Square to the west and half block to the county courthouse to the east.

Yet despite all the activity in and around the Mountain Inn, Roy and Kay Brumfield also had a project simmering in their minds, another hospitality venture which they would call the Outpost Inn. When not occupied with operating the Mountain Inn or tending to his various clubs and obligations, Roy kept his grief at bay by dwelling on plans for a new inn.

In September 1944, Roy and Kay purchased land for the Outpost Inn. The old Davidson home where they'd lived since 1937 overlooked this property, which was located along the creek bottom adjacent to an existing pond. The Davidson home (recently restored) and guest house (no longer in existence) faced the northern end of Washington Avenue. Brumfield's new property adjoined North College between Davidson Street and Prospect, described as "All of Block B and all of Block C of Maplewood Addition" (except Lot 2 of Block B) and all of Lot 1 in Block A, which was a large parcel at the corner of Davidson and College.[40] The south-facing hillside of this scenic land looks down on the wide creek bottom in what was referred to as "the old Davidson park property."

Plans for the Outpost Inn went public in March 1947 when notice of the project gained front page placement in the *Northwest Ar-*

kansas Times. A large central building would house a restaurant, registration desk, and other amenities while guest cottages with kitchenettes would be scattered over the landscape to be rented individually. Tennis and badminton courts would be included. All of it was envisioned as an extension of Mountain Inn operations.

Costs for the project were estimated at "well over $100,000" for initial work alone, not including landscaping or expansions.

Fayetteville map of the area "All of Block B and all of Block C . . ." purchased by the Brumfields for the Outpost Inn. Washington County Archives, 1908 Plat of Fayetteville. https://www.co.washington.ar.us/home/showdocument?id=11339

> *The inn would serve the same purpose as did the post road inns of colonial days. Travelers will be able to turn in from the highway and find modern hotel accommodations for themselves plus recreations facilities and space for their automobiles. While separate from the central building, the guest houses will offer full hotel service, maids, bellhops, telephones, etc. . . . Plans call for the guest houses to be scattered more or less informally over the large park, giving each individual house complete privacy. Some of the houses will be equipped with kitchenettes, although the main dining room will offer complete service.*
>
> *Mr. and Mrs. Brumfield expect to use the western style of construction, low one-story buildings along informal lines. To be built of native materials, the guest houses will cut the fire hazard almost to zero.*
>
> *In addition to the inn, the Brumfields plan to develop the two square blocks just north of the park into a residential district. Plans call for homes to be built around the two blocks with a unique children's playground being developed in the center of each block. The parks, which would be kept up through a trust fund, would be available to all residents in the two-block area, since the back yard of each home would front on the park.*[41]

When the Brumfields' permit request was scheduled to come before city fathers for a vote, homeowners in adjacent neighborhoods quickly organized a petition to protest the entire proposal. Signed by 31 property owners, their argument was presented by their attorney Paul Jameson.

> *[Jameson] claimed the project would be built in a restricted residential area, that it would decrease property value, and that it would constitute a "nuisance." If the permit should be granted, the attorney said, it would in effect open College Avenue to businesses all the way through the street from the courthouse to the Veterans Hospital. He cited two instances in which the council turned down previous applications for permits to build business buildings on this street several blocks closer to the business area [the Square].*

Ferguson's Dining Room and Cafeteria

....The Latest Word in Dining Pleasure....

THE MOUNTAIN INN

Kay and Roy Brumfield

The Annex/Arcade building is on the left side with an awning over the entry; the original Mountain Inn on the right has two ornate entries. From a postcard by Dexter Press of West Nyack, New York. Courtesy https://www.fayettevillehistory.com/pc/2009/05/mountain-inn.html. (Top) Ad from *Northwest Arkansas Times,* September 28, 1949.

> *Among the property owners who appeared were Mrs. Zora Cummings, who said she thought her property on College Avenue would be helped by the construction of the inn; Jack Holt, who spoke in favor of the project; Robert Smith, who opposed it; Ralph Lewis, who said he is a member of the Planning Board and pointed out that such a project was not in the purview of this board. Several others were heard in support of the plan, and in opposition to it.*
>
> *All eight aldermen voted to approve the permit.*[42]

The 8-0 vote created the first commercial zone outside the existing "first fire zone" around the town square.[43]

But the Outpost Inn never materialized. Whether the Brumfields yielded to neighborhood pressure or other obstacles, no further evidence of the Outpost Inn has been found. The city passed Ordinance 912 on April 28, 1947, extending the fire zone to the north city limits (North Street) in a 150-foot wide strip on either side of College, thus opening north College Avenue to commercial development.

Despite this setback, Roy Brumfield remained committed to local commerce and tourism for the region. In 1941, he was elected county chair of the Fayetteville chapter of the Ozarks Playground Association, organized in 1919 to promote tourism in the Ozarks encompassing southwestern Missouri, northwestern Arkansas, and northeastern Oklahoma. Headquartered in Joplin, Missouri, the Association distributed their promotional materials throughout the region as aids to motorists in search of lodgings and activities. Roy remained active in the group through the late 1940s.

An article in the *Northwest Arkansas Times* published October 28, 1944, expounded on the possibilities.

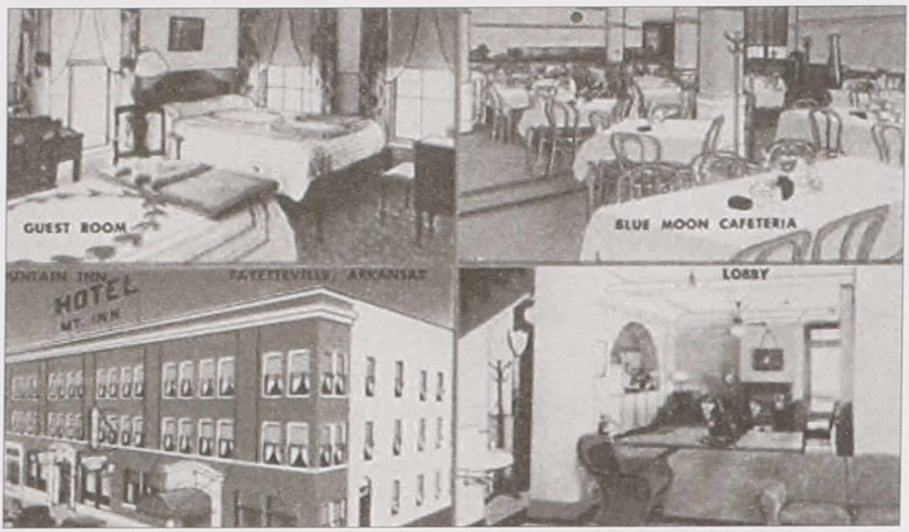
> *The American tourist trade will be gigantic after the war is over, if those who should know are right in their predictions. It is said that millions want to travel the first opportunity they get—and the Ozarks Playgrounds Association hopes to get a good share of this travel to come in this direction. They will come by train, by car, and by airplane—and Fayetteville is prepared to take care of all who come by any of these means of travel. It is fortunate in its facilities. It must be ready to take care of its share of those who seek recreation in the days to come.*

The Fayetteville group voted to raise its share of a $50,000 budget which included funds to hire a fulltime public relations man in order to reach out to "thousands of families of soldiers and defense workers [who] could be persuaded to relax in the Ozarks."[44]

Post-War Fayetteville: The Brumfields Buy the Mountain Inn

By the late 1940s and possibly sooner, Roy and Kay threw their Davidson Street home open to musician friends for Sunday night jam sessions, among them prominent attorney and man about town, Rex Perkins. Kay had begun singing with Rex's popular group at their regular appearance at the Bubble Club, a Fayetteville nightclub on the north end of town. The group also played for events such as the December 1948 Kiwanis 11thth Anniversary Christmas Party at the Washington Hotel and at the Uark Bowl for a 1950 Lions Club officer installation. Their "Bubble Club Orchestra" served an ongoing role for various university dances and other events. The lineup usually included Perkins (fiddle), Price Dickson (trombone), and Jim McDonald (piano), along with Sonny Osburn or Herman Tuck Jr. (drums) and on occasion, Kay Brumfield as vocalist.[45] In November 1951, the group was called "Fayetteville Little Symphony."[46]

Finally, the disruption and hard times of the first decades of the twentieth century with its failed alcohol prohibition, the Great Depression, and two world wars had ended. As the nation faced a new and promising decade, Roy and Kay Brumfield reassessed their opportunities at the Mountain Inn. In July 1949, the couple purchased the Mountain Inn Annex property from the Industrial Finance Company



Postcard from the Mountain Inn, dated 1950 by postmark. From https://www.amazon.com/Mountain- Fayetteville-Arkansas-Original-Vintage/dp/B00P6RZWK0

for a total of $110,000, with a down payment of $10,000 and the balance to be paid in monthly installments of $695.08 for 12 years.

Two months later, Ferguson's Cafeteria and Dining Room opened in the old Blue Moon Cafeteria space. By mid-year 1950, Roy and Kay received a liquor permit for the Center Cigar Store located at 29-39 East Center. The permit specified their legal right to "sell and dispense vinous or spirituous liquor for beverage and retail on the premises."

By now Tom Brumfield, Roy's younger son, had completed his medical training and married. A society page notice in the *Northwest Arkansas Times* June 26, 1951, remarked that "Dr. and Mrs. Tom Brumfield visited his dad before going to Tulsa where he will intern at Hillcrest Hospital."

Following the ignominious end of Roy and Kay's joyful Outpost Inn dream, they asked the city to update the plat of their property in the Maplewood Addition and began selling off lots. From February 1950 to the end of 1959, they sold 21 lots of Block B and C in the Maplewood Addition as well as part of Lot 1 in Block A. Phillips Motor Company, the local Chrysler-Plymouth dealership, leased a 300-foot long College Avenue frontage of Block A where a modern showroom designed by architect T. Ewing Shelton opened in July 1951.[47]

Exactly when the couple's next big plan coalesced in their minds is not known, but it might be assumed it began as early as June

Hight Service & Storage, corner of Muntain Street and College Avenue in Fayetteville, 1930. The building directly behind the Texaco sign is the Mountain Inn Annex. Courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History / Washington County Historical Society Collection (P-339).

2, 1953, when they purchased Lots 18 and 19 as well as the east part of Lot 17, Block 28. These parcels abutted the south side of the Mountain Inn Annex facing Mountain Street. They paid Jack and Blanche Hight $85,000 for the lots.

Jack Hight inherited the property from his father, Dr. John Patterson Hight who purchased the land in 1902 from Thomas Jennings, the same Jennings family which had built the original Mountain Inn. The first documented use of the southeast corner of Block 28 (which included Lots 17, 18, and 19) had been Jennings' blacksmith shop and mule barn circa 1868. He hired out mules to teamsters. By 1890, the Jennings operation had expanded north where the family had a residence alongside the feed lot and wagon yard.

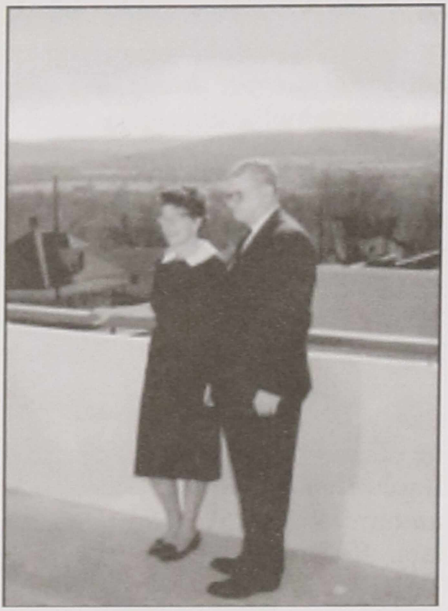
By 1929, the mules were gone, and in their place, a tidy red-brick structure housed Hight's Texaco. Just to the west of the Texaco, a larger brick building housed repair shops and automotive sales. In 1947, Herman A. Tuck leased the spot for Tuck's Service Company, and in 1961, the Mountain Inn used the location for the Mountain Inn Motor Services gas station. In one form or another for over a century, that corner of town had accommodated transportation.

Perhaps not coincidentally with the development of the Brumfields' new plan, the city had just completed a more user-friendly roadway for north-south traffic in a winding route they named Archibald Yell Boulevard. This allowed drivers to avoid the congested area around the town square and the steep hill coming up South College. Now the main route through Fayetteville passed squarely in front of Lot 19.

Advice from old friend and attorney Rex Perkins not to pursue this massive project failed to penetrate the driving force behind it, Kay Brumfield. Rex pointed out that they had a comfortable income from the Mountain Inn and questioned the decision to put it all at risk. Rex also knew that at 13 years Kay's senior, Roy wasn't well prepared for the effort. But Kay had a vision and would not be deterred.[48]

The Brumfields' ambitious plan included their creation of a Mountain Inn corporation, to which the couple signed over ownership of Lot 2, Block 28 with its Mountain Inn Annex building. The new corporation also purchased from Roy and Kay the lease of the original Mountain Inn with James A. Ward, Sr.'s heirs: Bess C. Ward, Miriam W. Goodnow, Miriam Ward Booth, and Evelyn Ward Robertson. As at its beginning in 1927, the lease covered "Lots 3 and 4 and a strip of land 9 feet wide from the entire east side of Lot 5 in Block 28 … together with the hotel building located thereon generally known as Mountain Inn Hotel (which property is now occupied by the Lessees under a Lease which expires July 31, 1974)."[49]

The Brumfields also deeded Lots 18 and 19, Block 28, and 20 feet off the east side of Lot 17 to their new corporation.[50] They contracted with architect T. Ewing Shelton to design a state-of-the-art hotel. In a mortgage agreement executed in September 1960 with Central States, Southeast, and Southwest Areas Pension Fund (Teamsters Union), the Mountain Inn Inc. borrowed $675,000 at 10 percent interest over a 20-year term.[51] A second mortgage with the pension fund provided an additional $50,000 the following year. The building, lease with Ward heirs, and furnishings were all included in the mortgaged property. Monthly payments would be $4,836.



The Brumfields at the grand opening of the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge on the south terrace. State Archives, Ernie Deane Collection, 0827.

As such construction projects are wont to do, costs ran well beyond the financing. In the last

Ground view of the entry to the Mountain Inn. The building in background housed furniture stores, Montgomery Wards, and others until it was torn down. Postcard courtesy Gough Photo Service of Tulsa, Oklahoma, circa 1960. https://www.fayettevillehistory.com/pc/2007/08/ind

months before completion, the couple threw the project on the mercy of the town. At the urging of the Chamber of Commerce, over $80,000 in subscriptions were raised in a community drive, the bonds sold to many local business leaders and civic minded citizens.

Within the corporate structure of the Mountain Inn, Inc., officers included Roy as president and general manager, and Ty Reed as manager. Chairman of the board was Ellis Shelter. L. L. Baxter was vice chair, E. J. Ball was secretary, and W. R. McNair was treasurer. Other board members were Clarence Davis, W. M. Ritter, Henry Shreve, Clifton Wade, Cy Carney, Sr., Hal Douglas, Dr. C. G. Melton, Sr., Marvin Murphy, and J. F. Palmer.[52]

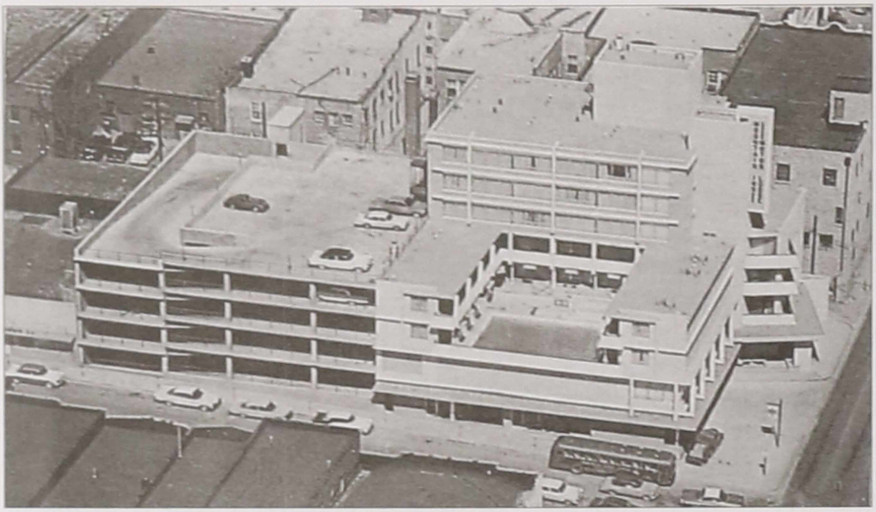
The couple contracted with Itasca Draperies, Inc., a Texas corporation, to supply "certain furniture, fixtures, and equipment to be delivered and installed in the hotel and motel (new part), for which Itasca would be paid a total of $147,188.98, payable at a monthly amount of $2,831.22 for five years. Translated into 21stst century dollars, the Brumfields' expenditure with Itasca exceeded $1.24 million. Their local supporters contributed an equivalent of nearly $700,000 which combined with the $725,000 borrowed from the Teamsters Pension Fund translates to over $6 million dollars today.

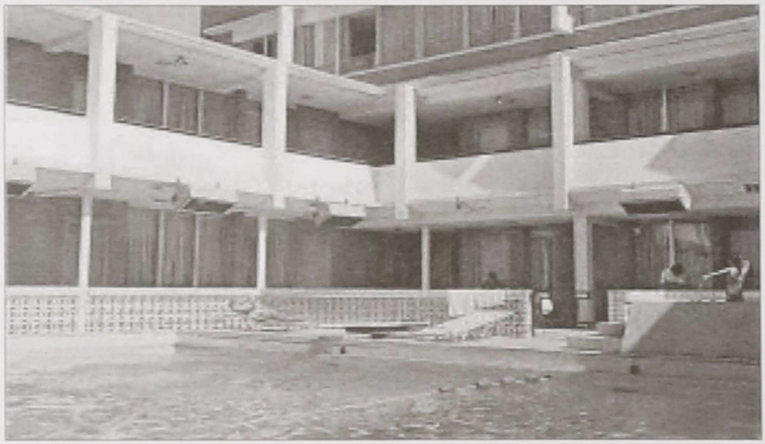
Looming Financial Strains Overshadow Launch of New Mountain Motor Lodge

On February 9, 1962, to great local fanfare, Roy and Kay Brumfield opened the new Mountain Inn Motor Lodge. The beautiful modern structure of pale gold stone occupied the northwest corner of College Avenue and Mountain Street, abutting the south side of the Mountain Inn Annex which interconnected along certain interior corridors. Lauded in the four-state media as "the most elaborate and unusual tourist facilities in the Southwest," the Brumfields' new hotel contained 64 rooms and a 150-car parking deck that allowed guests to park at the same level as their room. It was the first parking deck in town.

The new Mountain Inn Motor Lodge included a drive-in lobby "where guests can register without leaving their cars."[53] Commercial rental spaces lined the south-facing frontage along Mountain Street. The Motor Lodge's southern vista toward the Boston Mountains added scenic beauty to the assets of its convenient downtown location.

Third- and fourth-floor cabanas faced a heated roof-top pool. Food service facilities included a new dining room, kitchen, and banquet hall on a mezzanine facing a south and southeast vista.





(Top) South facade along Mountain Street, with College Avenue on the extreme right. The buildings adjacent along the hotel's back wall include the Annex and original Mountain Inn (second and third structures from right). S&S News, Fayetteville, circa 1965. (Below) The heated roof-top pool faced by third- and fourth-floor cabañas. Drinks were served pool-side. Photographer unknown.

Lavish detail attended the furnishings and interior décor. Furniture, lamps, carpets, and decorative objects conformed to the most modern design. Pale apricot wall color, thick carpet, and heavy draperies contributed an air of opulence. Oriental nuance graced the television lounge in an age when that media remained new and unusual. The owner's and manager's offices came equipped with desks, chairs, lounge chairs, and brass lamps. Planters and bronze wall urns graced the public areas. Poolside, visitors enjoyed lounge chairs fitted with turquoise and white striped cushions.

No expense was spared in outfitting a state-of-the-art food service for the Ozark Dining Room. The kitchen featured all new stainless steel work tables, counters, and service equipment, two stoves with ovens and griddle, fryer, refrigerators and freezers, ice maker, meat slicers, dough hook, and numerous other implements, appliances, and equipment. Fine silverware, Buffalo restaurant china, table linens, and themed décor ensured a luxurious dining experience.

Murphy's gift and flower shop opened from the hotel's lobby.

Guest rooms were grouped by name. In the North Tower, 15 rooms in the "Legacy" group and seven in the "Criterion" group featured desks, tables, and lounge chairs with turquoise cushions along with the standard hotel fare of bed, nightstands, and so forth. In the South Tower, "Fortissimo" and "Manchu" rooms included lounge chair cushions in Barbados brown. Many more rooms, as well as studios and a bridal suite were similarly furnished. Color schemes in either turquoise/white or peach/beige/nutmeg carried through in striped curtains and bedding. Ice buckets and port-a-cribs were among the multitude of extras.

The new hotel immediately became the center of Fayetteville's hospitality business. Visiting dignitaries stayed in its new ultra-modern rooms and enjoyed poolside cocktails. The dining rooms hosted coffees, luncheons, wedding receptions, and banquets heralded in the city's society pages. Private parties and clubs from Lions Club to Daughters of the American Revolution held meetings and parties within these sleek walls.

Regular advertisements ran through 1963 promoting Ferguson's Cafeteria and the Ozark Dining Room as well as the flower and gift shop and office spaces available along street level on Mountain Street. Within a half block of the courthouse, these offices were favored by attorneys.

The first hint of trouble, at least to the public eye, came in January 1964 when the Arkansas State Labor Commission filed a complaint against the Inn for an employee's overtime work the previous year. A judgment of $546.99 was asked by the Commission for overtime work in violation of Arkansas Statute 81-601.

But two years previously, from the very beginning of the Inn's operation, trouble had been brewing behind the scenes. Itasca Inc., supplier of furnishings for the hotel, had been backed up by Pacific Industries, Inc. and as such, the company had sought guarantees on its contract with the Mountain Inn by placing the financing agreement with an outside entity, Westinghouse Credit Corporation (WCC).

The Brumfields met WCC's requests for additional debt guarantees by pledging 20 shares of Union Carbide, 45 shares of Standard

Oil of New Jersey, 30 shares of Westinghouse, 10 shares of Kennecott Copper, 30 shares of Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, 12 shares of Morgan Trust, 7 shares of Sun Oil, and 60 shares of General Motors. The Brumfields also entered into a second mortgage with WCC conveying Lots 2, 16, 17, 18, and 19, Block 28, for additional security.

The Brumfields struggled mightily to meet their monthly financial obligations. Tragically, whatever they had calculated in their income projections failed to materialize. Debt service for the building and furnishings alone amounted to $7,667 per month in addition to utilities, repairs and maintenance, supplies and wholesale food costs, insurance, and wages for employees. Fayetteville remained a small town with limited tourist trade. A periodic boost came from Razorback football games and graduations, which brought visitors only four or five times a year.

The Brumfields' ongoing financial crisis came to its terrible conclusion on March 1, 1964, when Pacific Industries paid WCC the full consideration of the contract and demanded payment in full from the Brumfields of $130,236.12 plus 6 percent interest. On April 18, 1964, Pacific filed a motion for the appointment of a receiver, which motion was granted April 20 naming Charles E. Aubrey, an officer of Pacific, as receiver. On July 13, the case came to trial before the Honorable John E. Miller in the United States Court, Western District of Arkansas, Fayetteville Division. Kaneaster Hodges of Newport, Arkansas, and Courtney C. Crouch of Springdale served as attorneys for Pacific, E. J. Ball and Rex Perkins for Mountain Inn, Inc., and W. B. Putman for the Brumfields.[54]

Court records describe the Brumfields' last-ditch efforts to open their hotel:

> *The employees of Itasca were on the job until the 1961 Christmas holidays when all of the employees, or a majority, returned to Dallas, Texas, and did not return to the job site at Mountain Inn…after the holidays. Naturally the Brumfields were very anxious for Itasca to complete the installation and called Itasca over long distance telephone and requested that it proceed with the installation. In the meantime, Collins [president of Itasca] had attempted to assign the contract between the Inn and Itasca to WCC, but before WCC would accept the assignment and advance to Itasca the money to finance the deal, Collins was required by WCC to execute the guaranty hereinbefore referred to. Therefore, Collins, as President of Itasca, did not desire to proceed with the performance of the November 1961 contract without additional security, and immediately began discussions with WCC and no doubt enlisted WCC's aid in*

his efforts to obtain the personal guaranty of the Brumfields.

As a result of the demands made by Itasca through its president and other officers, with the cooperation and help of WCC, upon the Brumfields and the threat of Itasca that it would not complete its contract, the Brumfields were faced with the possibility of a long, ruinous delay and with no legal remedy available against Collins' threatened breach of contract other than equally ruinous, time-consuming and costly litigation. Therefore, the Brumfields submitted to the economic pressures imposed upon them and on January 29, 1962, the contract of guaranty was executed and subsequently on April 16, 1962, the escrow agreement was executed.[55]

In testimony, Kay Brumfield stated that at the time of her phone conversation with Collins, he "threatened to keep his men from returning to the job after the Christmas holidays and from completing the carpet laying and other installations of furniture and equipment unless the Brumfields signed a personal guaranty in favor of WCC. Mrs. Brumfield stated that the hotel was scheduled to open in January and that when the personnel of Itasca left for the Christmas holidays in December, the job was only one-third to one-half completed."

On January 29, 1962, with only a week left before the rescheduled grand opening of the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge and furnishings still not complete, Roy Brumfield executed a second mortgage with WCC for Lots 2, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in Block 28. Attorneys Perkins and Ball argued that these guarantees were the result of coercion and were executed under duress:

The court cannot in equity compel the performance of an obligation exacted in circumstances which so strongly indicate acute duress and coercion even though it might be established that the personal guaranty was supported by sufficient consideration.

That didn't sway the court:

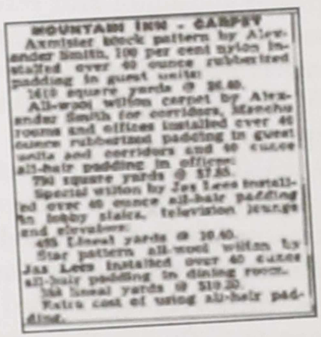
Therefore…judgment and decree will be entered in favor of the plaintiff, Pacific Industries, Inc., and against the defendant, Mountain Inn, Inc. for the sum of $115,483.17 with interest at 6 percent per annum from March 1, 1964…That if the amount due hereunder from Mountain Inn, Inc. to the plaintiff be not paid within 20 days from the date of the entry of the judgment and decree, the property shall be sold by a commissioner named in the decree and in accordance with the conditions named in the decree.

It must have been small comfort to the Brumfields that the court agreed with defense attorney Putman and refused to pursue Pacific's complaint against them personally or to hold them responsible for Pacific's attorneys' fees. The stocks were held by First National Bank of Fayetteville, but it's not clear if these assets were ever returned. The hotel stayed open under the supervision of the receiver with profits flowing toward debt collection.[56]

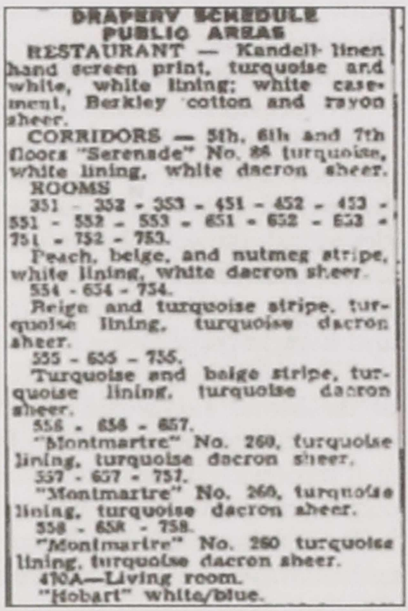
On October 6, 1964, a legal notice of the pending sale in the case of Pacific Industries against the Mountain Inn, Inc. and the Brumfields included a list of all furnishings down to the carpet and ashtrays, with tiny print covering a full page plus part of a second page of the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. Reading down the list must have felt like a blood-letting for Kay, who had meticulously imagined and chosen each element of the décor for its ambiance and suitability.

All items were sold on the Federal District Courthouse steps in Fort Smith on November 6, 1964, to Francis J. Murtha. A quitclaim deed dated March 30, 1965, granted ownership to Murtha from Itasca Draperies, Inc., for Lots 2, 16, 17, 18, and 19, Block 28, as well as "furniture, fixtures, and equipment of Mountain Inn, Inc. at 21 South College Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas."[57]

Distress about the situation wasn't limited to the Brumfields. Town fathers and businessmen wrung their hands at the community's embarrassment and loss. Attorneys for the Mountain Inn stated in a press release that despite the sale of its furnishings, the hotel would not close. "It would 'not make sense' for the hotel to close just prior to football season. The plush Motor Lodge has al-



MOUNTAIN INN - CARPET
Axminster block pattern by Alexander Smith, 100 per cent nylon installed over 40 ounce rubberized padding in guest units:
1410 square yards @ $6.40.
All-wool wilton carpet by Alexander Smith for corridors, Manchu rooms and offices installed over 40 ounce rubberized padding in guest units and corridors and 40 ounce all-hair padding in offices:
790 square yards @ $7.85.
Special wilton by Jas Lees installed over 40 ounce all-hair padding in lobby stairs, television lounge and elevators:
405 Lineal yards @ $6.40.
Star pattern all-wool wilton by Jas Lees installed over 40 ounce all-hair padding in dining room.
384 lineal yards @ $10.20.
Extra cost of using all-hair padding.



DRAPERY SCHEDULE
PUBLIC AREAS
RESTAURANT — Kandell linen hand screen print, turquoise and white, white lining; white casement, Berkley cotton and rayon sheer.
CORRIDORS — 5th, 6th and 7th floors "Serenade" No. 88 turquoise, white lining, white dacron sheer.
ROOMS
351 - 352 - 353 - 451 - 452 - 453 - 551 - 552 - 553 - 651 - 652 - 653 - 751 - 752 - 753.
Peach, beige, and nutmeg stripe, white lining, white dacron sheer.
554 - 654 - 754.
Beige and turquoise stripe, turquoise lining, turquoise dacron sheer.
555 - 655 - 755.
Turquoise and beige stripe, turquoise lining, turquoise dacron sheer.
556 - 656 - 657.
"Montmartre" No. 269, turquoise lining, turquoise dacron sheer.
557 - 657 - 757.
"Montmartre" No. 260, turquoise lining, turquoise dacron sheer.
558 - 658 - 758.
"Montmartre" No. 260 turquoise lining, turquoise dacron sheer.
410A—Living room.
"Hobart" white/blue.

Ads from *Northwest Arkansas Times*, October 6, 1964

ways been a gathering point for Razorback football fans."[58]

Attempt To Rescue Mountain Inn Motor Lodge Fails; Teamsters Step in and Take Charge

Less than two weeks after Murtha took ownership of the properties, he sold everything to Horizon Investments, Inc. The corporation formed December 30, 1964, and included Bass Trumbo, Iris Baum, and Wanda Shewmaker as incorporators.[59] No doubt they hoped to succeed where the Brumfields had failed. But Horizon, like the Brumfields, also quickly faced trouble in meeting its financial obligations. Delinquent property taxes occurred as early as the 1969 tax year when Horizon owed $1,523.94 on Lot 2 and $6,564.19 on Lots 16-19.

Things went downhill from there. Early in 1972, the Teamsters Pension Fund filed suit in Washington County Chancery Court to retrieve $957,126.05 due on a promissory note issued to Horizon, foreclosing on the Downtown Motor Lodge.[60] The suit asked that insurance premiums and state and county taxes be paid along with the balance due on the note. Multiple other parties were involved in the suit, lienholder debt including laborers and material sales, lessor's interest, and federal taxes.

A primary topic of argument in subsequent litigation was whether the hotel should be closed. The pension fund trustees argued that terminating operations would only further reduce the property value and asked that a receiver be appointed. They stated that "the current value of the property…is insufficient to discharge the debt and continues to deteriorate."

A decree issued by the Honorable Thomas F. Butt in Washington County Chancery Court on May 10, 1972, ordered that the property again be sold to the highest bidder. Ralph Goff, Jr. was appointed receiver. Butt also ordered that the hotel and restaurant be closed but allowed Goff to continue to rent out spaces in the building and to maintain it. In a separate decree, Butt ordered Horizon to pay $2,707.29 to Ward heirs Mirian W. Goodnow, Mirian Ward Booth, and Evelyn Ward Robertson for unpaid rents.[61]

A notice published May 19, 1972, announced that the closing of the Motor Lodge did not affect the Gaslite Club and that it would continue its regular schedule Tuesday through Saturday nights starting at 8 p.m. with live entertainment. But notices of regular meetings of social groups and civic boards at the Motor Lodge ceased to appear in the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. Nor were there any more conventions or bridal parties. Instead, through 1973, reports of petty crime and disrepair filtered into the picture–teens robbed a cigarette machine,

television sets were stolen and then abandoned in the alleyway, a furnace motor caught fire.

With nearly a million dollars at stake, in 1972 the Teamsters Pension Fund took charge of the property. The fund had come under increasing federal scrutiny over the previous decade and its president, Jimmy Hoffa, had been imprisoned on charges of using the pension fund on a Florida real estate deal. Whether or not these circumstances played a role in the trustees' decision to make good on the Motor Lodge is not known, but in July 1973, the group announced its decision to restore the structure. City fathers fully supported the revitalization–for nearly two years, downtown Fayetteville had been without a hotel. The Washington Hotel, the original employer of the Brumfields in 1914, had been demolished sometime after 1953.[62]

A newspaper report summarized the situation:

> *In the year since it closed … the Motor Inn has suffered water damage from leaking roofs and pipes and losses to vandals. …The new operation [under Robert Forshee, a professional hotel manager from St. Louis hired by the pension fund] will include the seven-story hotel with its 64 rooms, the former Flame Room restaurant, the Arcade office building on Center Street, and offices along the Mountain Street side.*
>
> *Bellhops will park cars brought into the registration entrance, Forshee says, so that doors leading from the five parking levels can be kept locked. Locks will be changed on all doors to discourage vandalism.*
>
> *The second floor of the hotel is the street level from the Center Street side and includes the Flame Room restaurant. It also includes banquet room areas not now in use. The central hall of the Arcade building leads to the restaurant.*
>
> *Forshee has big plans for the restaurant, which he hopes to divide into a coffee shop area and a more formal full service restaurant. This will serve both evening diners and downtown business people and professionals…*
>
> *The present Rocking K Restaurant operating in the old Flame Room will be closed for remodeling.*
>
> *The third and fourth floors of the hotel include the cabana area around the third floor swimming pool. The pool features heated water and electric heaters which blow warm air in the pool area.*[63]

Renovations took longer than expected. In January 1974, Forshee reported that they had been holding off until a new restaurant could be put into operation. "We've been searching to get the right

kind of facility," he said, "one that will be acceptable to the people." Workers had been cleaning the hotel and a new air conditioning system was installed. It wasn't until March 1974 when "Help Wanted" ads appeared in the local papers. "We need cooks, salad worker, dishwasher, waitresses, desk clerks."

Throughout the coming months of 1974 and 1975, once again notices of social events appeared in local papers for activities to be hosted at the Downtown Motor Inn. But the frequency of these announcements was nowhere near the volume of the hotel's previous business. It wasn't that people didn't appreciate the Inn per se, but competition had arrived. Ironically, it was partially the action of Brumfield in his pursuit of the Outpost Inn on North College that had opened the doors for commercial development along that avenue. Growth had spread northward with the opening of Evelyn Hills Shopping Center in April 1961, undercutting traffic to the Fayetteville Square.

Even more to the point, a new Holiday Inn had been constructed north of town at the corner of Township and College (now CVS Pharmacy), opening in May 1962 just four months after the Brumfields' grand opening of the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge. The new hotel nestled amid new homes and businesses expanding into the north end of town.

> *Tourists this summer will find expanded facilities for accommodations in the city. During the past year expansion and renovation projects have been completed in several motels and with the recent opening of the Holiday Inn located on Hwy. 71 N., 82 more units were added.*
>
> *A special unit at the new motel is a bridal suite which features white French provincial furnishings and is decorated with white and gold accent colors. King-size units, in which oversize beds have been placed, are another unusual feature.*
>
> *The motel is constructed of reinforced concrete and the L-shaped building embraces a restaurant which overlooks a swimming pool and landscaped patio. Central heating and air conditioning provides individual controls for each unit. Television and a separate communication system which supplies radio and recorded music are also incorporated in each unit.*[64]

The Holiday Inn quickly became a favored spot for all types of gatherings with its daily buffet and modest pricing.

Contributing to the growing problem for downtown commerce was the 1971 completion of a U.S. Highway 71 bypass around

the west side of Fayetteville which funneled traffic away from the downtown area. By 1972 when the Northwest Arkansas Plaza (later known as the NWA Mall) opened, the death knell of the old downtown Square had been rung. The bypass looped back to its original route just before reaching the mall area. In September that year, the Ramada Inn opened just south of the mall, attracting locals to its lunch buffet and travelers to its rooms.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, an increasing number of downtown buildings became boarded up relics of their former glory and vagrants lounged on their front steps. Theaters closed; eating establishments narrowed down to a handful. Ferguson's Cafeteria had closed in 1969. Merchants desperate for patrons relocated or went out of business.

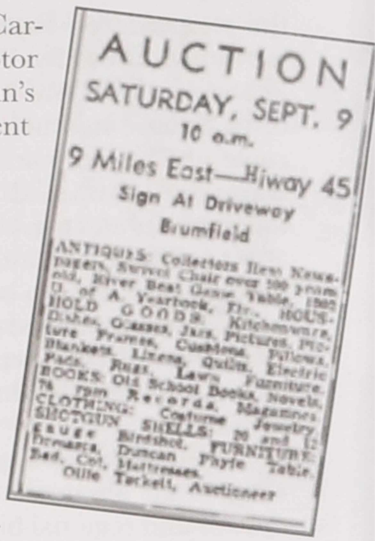
Amid growing commercial woes around the square, the Gaslite Club in the basement of the Mountain Inn Annex attracted partying crowds and regional high-rollers entertained by raucous performances by rock and roll bands. Doyle Morgan originally opened the club in the late 1960s then sold out to a partnership of Tommy McClelland, Leroy Willis, and Richard "Dickie" Pool. Sometime later, Willis leased the Gaslite Club to Steve Williams while upstairs in the Motor Lodge, Billie Schneider took over the Brass Monkey club.

One former patron of the Gaslite Club remembered wet t-shirt contests when the manager would lock the doors to keep out inspectors from the Alcohol and Beverage Control agency. But overall, the private club served a vital role in the community as a place to see and be seen within a certain set, in particular persons involved in the Democratic Party.

On Saturday night March 22, 1975, fire—believed to be a case of arson—erupted in the Gaslite Club. The Cate Brothers were playing. Everyone got out safely, but the fire did extensive damage and destroyed Ernie Cate's Hammond organ. The liquor permit was transferred to the Brass Monkey temporarily while Williams renovated the Gaslight.

But once his repairs were completed, his lease wasn't renewed. Williams moved the Gaslite to become the Gaslite Harbor in a building at 2217 North College, now occupied by Mermaids Restaurant.[65] Billie Schneider moved into the space with her Brass Monkey and continued to attract faithful patrons until her death in the mid-1980s.

Aside from a few notices of vandalism, most of the 195 newspaper notices about the Inn in 1975 were reports of club meetings and other social events at the renovated Motor Inn and adjacent rooms of the original Mountain Inn. But twice that many notices appeared that year for events at the Holiday Inn.


AUCTION
SATURDAY, SEPT. 9
10 a.m.
9 Miles East—Hiway 45
Sign At Driveway
Brumfield
ANTIQUES: Collectors Item Newspapers, Swivel Chair over 100 years old, River Boat Grain Table, 1902 U. of A. Yearbook, Etc. HOUSEHOLD GOODS: Kitchenware, Dishes, Glasses, Jars, Pictures, Picture Frames, Cushions, Pillows, Blankets, Linens, Quilts, Electric Pads, Rugs, Lawn Furniture. BOOKS: Old School Books, Novels, 78 rpm Records, Magazines. CLOTHING: Costume Jewelry SHOTGUN SHELLS: 20 and 12 Gauge Birdshot. FURNITURE: Firmware, Duncan Phyfe Table, Bed, Coil Mattresses.
Ollie Tackett, Auctioneer

In May 1976, a new manager–John Carter–assumed duties with the Downtown Motor Inn, an experienced man who pledged the Inn's dedication to serving the community. Subsequent advertisements stated that:

> *Downtown Motor Lodge is all new except the outside which has always been a beautiful building anyway…but the inside will surely make you sit up and take notice. …we have completely renovated and refurnished for you. Our new Razorback Room offers the finest home cooked meals at reasonable prices. We also feature TWO private clubs available to its members. Our swimming pool and sun deck will suit your every need, especially with the beautiful view. You can enjoy all these for as low as $10.00 a night with parking and local phone calls. All this and our services make it one of the finest Motor Lodges in Arkansas. We also offer airport limousine service free of charge.*[66]

Of the 73 notices about the Inn published in 1976, about half were advertisements attempting to attract more patrons. The year 1977 saw even greater decline. In 1978, the Teamsters Pension Fund sold the properties and current lease agreements to local real estate mogul Johnie Bassett.[67]

Roy Brumfield died the next year.

Both the Brumfields and the Mountain Inn Awash In Financial Turmoil; Inn Is "Trashed Beyond Anything I've Ever Seen"

Throughout the immediate aftermath of the Brumfields' loss of their hotel businesses, the couple struggled financially. They had put all their chips on the Motor Inn and lost. Now they had no income. Perhaps worse, the town's most influential residents and businesses had invested in bonds that were suddenly not worth the paper they were printed on. Angry whispers and condemnation followed Roy and Kay wherever they went, riding around town in their aging Fleetwood Cadillac. Sadly, these two, who had participated in every civic activity for over 20 years, had become persona non grata. To observers, they didn't seem appropriately penitent for the financial burden they had imposed on their neighbors and friends.

Roy Brumfield (left) is presented a certificate of appreciation from the President of the United States for 25 years of outstanding service to the Arkansas Selective Service System, April 18, 1968. Brumfield joined the board in September 1942 and served as chairman October 1950-September 1965. Pictured with him are board members Paul Jameson (center) and Tom Pearson Jr. Ken Good, photographer. Courtesy *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* & Shiloh Museum of Ozark History / *Northwest Arkansas Times* Collection (NWAT Box 18 68.87.

Of course, they were utterly humiliated. The Brumfields moved from their home at 127 E. Davidson to property off Highway 45 near Goshen; the city directory for 1967 lists their address as Highway 45 East. Kay Brumfield is the only name on that listing, with her employment shown as sales clerk at Perry's Jewelers. Right away the couple started selling off parcels from the Highway 45 property, parts of Section 34 and Section 36 of Township 17, Range 29. The auction ad, also from 1967, speaks for itself.[68]

By 1967, Kay worked at the Holiday Inn. She and Roy waded into a fad enterprise of chinchilla production with their "Cedar Hill Chinchilla Ranch," joining several other area entrepreneurs hoping to cash in on the craze. But chinchillas are difficult to breed and sensitive to weather fluctuations, and the money mostly profited those who sold breeding stock to hopeful breeders in what turned out for many to be little more than a pyramid scheme.

Soon Kay found better employment with the Arkansas Department of Education. An article published November 5, 1968, stated that she had been appointed as distributive education specialist assigned with the Sequoyah Polytechnic School in Fayetteville. The coursework involved marketing and distribution designed to prepare

individuals to progress in the business world which deals with the distribution of goods or services.

Mrs. Brumfield has been active in the hotel-motel field for many years. She transferred from Smith College in Massachusetts to the University of Arkansas receiving her B.A. degree in 1942 and her masters in arts and sciences in the field of psychology and philosophy in 1946. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1941, is a member of Psi Chi and Sigma Alpha Iota.[69]

In June 1969 on behalf of the State Department of Education, Kay presented a talk before the Credit Women's Breakfast Club on what can be accomplished in credit and collection. "For our computerized age, there are people jobs that can be dealt with only by the personal touch," she stated.[70] Similar engagements dotted her calendar over the coming years.

Kay served on the board of the Fayetteville Symphony Society (1969), remained an active member of the local chapter of the American Red Cross (1975), joined the Daughters of the American Revolution (1975) where she served as secretary, and served as secretary for the Washington County Historical Society (1977). During these years, she produced pamphlets promoting Fayetteville tourism including "Historic Fayetteville, Arkansas: A Vacation Guide" (1954) and "What's Where: Historic, Scenic, and Recreational Places in Arkansas" (published 1972 by Arkansas Department of Education).

Other than his 1968 award from his work on the Selective Service Board, Roy dropped out of public view until his death 10 years later. He was 82 years old. Kay died in 1993 at the age of 84.

Their creation, the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge, remained in its sprawling footprint along College Avenue between Center and Mountain streets through a torment of decline. Johnie Bassett died in 1984.[71] A partnership of Claude Pruitt with Dr. John and Ann Sugg purchased the property, but by 1985, the operation was in receivership to Worthen Bank of Little Rock. Worthen's agent, local attorney Jay Tolley, oversaw operations of the restaurant and bar (the Town Club).

(Above) The entry hall to the Mountain Inn Annex. The boarded off stairwell led to the basement where the Gaslite Club was located. *Fayetteville Flyer*, April 10, 2014.
(Opposite) The roof-top pool on the third and fourth levels, trashed and defaced. Photographer unknown.

By 1986, Worthen had hired Southern Hosts Management Company and placed a man named Holcombe in charge of operations.[72]

As early as the mid-'70s, certain activities involving ladies who worked for hire had become part of the Motor Lodge's declining reputation. Hookups occurred in the Town Club and the Gaslite Club, reportedly the efforts of enterprising freelancers. Men working on the construction of the new First National Bank building along the east side of the Square (completed in October 1981) noted "a lot of fancy cars, gentlemen, and the hard working ladies" in and around the Lodge and its parking deck. "Carpenters and steel worker friends would see the gentlemen customers and the ladies getting in and out of the Cadillacs and Lincolns."[73]

During the coming years as the building slipped further into disrepair, vandals and squatters inhabited the halls of the former Inn. In 1995, the deteriorating Lodge came into the hands of the Maharishi Vedic University, a group promoting transcendental meditation. After 1998, it was abandoned.

As remarked by a local trespasser/explorer in 2005,

The view from the southeast shows south side of the Annex (foreground) and part of the back of the original Mountain Inn. Todd Gill, photographer. *Fayetteville Flyer*, April 10, 2014.

> *Inside, the hotel was trashed beyond anything I've ever seen. . . .It looked like someone had come through with a sledgehammer or some other blunt object and destroyed everything they could. Ceiling tiles were everywhere. Every mirrored wall and column was broken. Chairs and tables were smashed everywhere. It looked like everything that could be broken had been, and then spray painted on top of it.*
>
> *Around the second or third story, I found that there was an outdoor patio with a pool. The patio had been spray painted worse than anything, and the pool was full of furniture, televisions, anything you could throw from the upper floors. You could see broken windows where people had done just that.*[74]

And there it sat, the child of cherished dreams and aspirations now victim of unspeakable vandalism, the weather, and deteriorating roofing that let mold flourish in the interior. City fathers worried about the hazardous conditions and cringed at the blight it put on downtown. No one could figure out what to do.

In 2005, local developers Richard Alexander and John Nock proposed demolishing the by-now 43-year-old structure of the ill-fated Lodge in order to build a new high-rise hotel under the name of Renaissance Tower. In order to facilitate this development, the Fayetteville City Council passed a controversial tax on downtown property owners.

In 2005, the Fayetteville City Council formed the state's first

TIF (tax-increment financing) district, a taxpayer-backed financing mechanism that borrowed against anticipated property tax growth in the district in order to pay for the demolition of the Mountain Inn. In return, Nock and Alexander were to build the downtown hotel by September 2007.

The developers demolished the building that had fulfilled the fond dream of Kay Brumfield and set about excavating the foundations for the new structure. Then, as if cursed, the property and its owners once again suffered a major setback when the real estate crisis hit late in 2006. Financing for real estate projects curled up and died. By 2008, it was obvious the project would never be built.[75]

After two years, a massive crane used to dig foundation trenches was removed and the 10-foot trenches filled to turn the space into a lowly parking lot, perhaps unwittingly returning the land to its long-held use for purposes of transportation–cars now instead of mules. Contractually bound, the developers paid $300,000 in fines for failing to meet the city's deadlines for the new hotel. At present, there are no plans for Lots 16-19 where the Brumfields built the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge.[76]

Scarred by the removal of connecting corridors to the Motor Lodge, the Mountain Inn Annex building remains empty. Next door, the oldest structure of the group, the original Mountain Inn, continues to lease useable space. Community ire grows at the eyesore of the wrecked south facades of the Annex building.

Regular commentary on this blight appears in various media and local poets lament the waste.

Once there was a Mountain Inn And then there was no more
The wrecking balls and track hoes came
And into it they tore

They crumbled up the concrete
And crushed it into bits
Hauled it off in big ole trucks
And dumped it into pits

They crushed up all the windows
And threw out all the doors
Hauled off all the ceilings

And hauled off all the floors…[77]

The following was published in a local free paper in 2014:

> *It's my understanding that by the time the TIF bonds are paid off, the city's total (taxpayer funded) investment will be over $10 million* ($3.725 million in principle plus 25 yrs of interest).*[78]

Property owners within the TIF district might argue that no appreciable increase in their property values has materialized despite their annual bloodletting. The city's chief financial officer Paul Becker explains the TIF district is actually misunderstood.

> *The logic behind a TIF district is that a local government issues bonds to revitalize an area and increase the economic development in the area. This revitalization will increase the assessed value of the district as all property values should increase because of the project. The government issues bonds to be paid off by the taxes generated by the increase in assessed valuation. At the time the bonds are issued the County is directed to segregate taxes collected which are more than the assessed value at the time of the bond issue. So the total taxes which would have gone to the City and County (the incremental taxes) due strictly to the increased value (incremental assessment) for the year for all properties go to a fund to pay off the bonds. This additional increment would have gone to the City or County but instead goes to pay off the bonds. So it has no impact on the property owners in the district [as] the increased tax due to rising property values goes to the TIF fund instead of the City or County. The property owners pay the same as they would have paid anyway, it just goes to a different fund. Once the TIF Bonds are paid off the property owners taxes are not reduced. They just go to the City or County instead of the TIF fund.*
>
> *The bond issue was for $3,750,000 and it was used to purchase the Mountain Inn property, to demolish the building, and do site preparation work. The tax assessment will not end when the bonds are paid off because the assessment is for the increased value of the property. The bonds were projected to pay off in 2029; that may or may not happen in that year depending on TIF collections amounts. The interest rate on each outstanding bond is 6.5% on the outstanding principal.*[79]

Working through an attorney, an entity named NWAP LLC of Mountain Home bought the property in 2014 from the Bank of Fayetteville for $1.1 million. NWAP LLC faces increasing pressure to do something about the ravaged south-facing walls of the Mountain Inn and Annex buildings. Unfortunately, most public commentary

fails to acknowledge that the wreckage is of the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge/Downtown Motor Inn rather than the original Mountain Inn.

Whatever the future of this southeast corner of Block 28, developers and dreamers might be forewarned that this spot has always existed at the edge of things. To the south and east, the land drops precipitously, creating a geographical and mental boundary. While the original Mountain Inn and the Annex sat on level ground alongside the rest of the town square, the Motor Lodge and its predecessors (mule barns, gas station) hovered at the brink of the poorest section of town. Since at least the 1940s, Fayetteville's new homes and new businesses have spread to the north and east and then the west—not the south.

The image of "a magical owl" painted on the College Avenue side of the Annex. Photographer unknown.

Should the Brumfields be held responsible for failing to understand what the future might hold? In a perfect world, as they planned the Mountain Inn Motor Lodge, they might have taken a hint from the development of Evelyn Hills Shopping Center which opened in 1960. Suddenly Fayettevillians had shiny new places to shop surrounded by lots of parking–the town's first drive-through bank, medical and professional offices, a supermarket, Montgomery Wards, Western Auto, Sterling dime store, and much more. Why did anyone need to go downtown?

Did the Brumfields not see the potential problem with the simultaneous construction of a Holiday Inn? Was their failure in not understanding what this could mean? Had they, or specifically Kay, been focused on a dream hotel so long that they couldn't imagine stopping everything at the last minute? Or were they, like Alexander and Nock 40 years later, willing to risk everything for their vision of the future?

As growth expands along the city's sprawling perimeter, the original town square holds commercial appeal primarily for its vintage structures rich with history. Amid city administration buildings and former storefronts converted to condominiums, niche shops, and eateries thrive in many of the Square's oldest structures. In recent de-

cades, irreplaceable old buildings along the entire east side and northeast corners have been supplanted by new buildings. With the restored 1905 courthouse a half block away, don't the 1872 Mountain Inn and 1927 Annex deserve preservation?

So far, the solution to the Motor Lodge devastation has been to paint everything gray on the gutted south wall of the Mountain Inn and Annex buildings. In 2016, owners hired artist Alexis Diaz to paint the image of a magical owl on the College Avenue side of the Annex. With Fayetteville hotel occupancy rates hovering around 68 percent these days, it remains to be seen if the owl offers any wisdom to future decisions about the site.

Endnotes

[1]"Eureka Springs Historic District," Arkansas Historic Preservation Program website, accessed August 6, 2014 at http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/historic-properties/_search_nomination_popup.aspx?id=1208. Note that this address for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program website is no longer active.

[2]"Small Parties for Home Folk and Out of Town," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, March 2, 1916, p. 3.

[3] "Rotarians Introduce Unique Features at Ladies' Night Banquet," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, February 18, 1922, p. 1.

[4]"Letter from Miss Annie House," The Star Progress, February 5, 1926, p. 4.

[5]Roy enlisted on December 30, 1917. He was trained as an aviator in the new Army Air Service at Carlson Flying School in Arcadia, Florida, and then transferred to Camp Pike (North Little Rock) before his discharge March 1, 1919.

[6]"Roy Brumfield Opens Stove at I.T.C. Stand," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, May 16, 1921, p. 1.

[7]"Brumfield Grocery Sold to E. T. Caudle," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, June 9, 1923, p. 1.

[8]"Social and Personal," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, Dec 27, 1924, p. 6.

[9]"Orlando Hotel in Long History," The Camden News, June 11, 1955, p. 60.

[10]"News Items from the Bear State: Business Flourishing in Fort Smith—Increasing Manufacturing Facilities," The Lumber World, Vol 10, April 15, 1910, p. 26.

[11]"The traveling men from Fort Smith sell furniture in 21 states," The Guardian, August 16, 1919, p 1.

[12]Matthew Myers, "Edward Ballman: King of Fort Smith Furniture Manufacturing," The Journal, Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., Vol 38, No. 1, p. 30.

[13]Deed record 209-51, Washington County Archives

[14]Ward Furniture Company continued its operations in Fort Smith until 1982. At its peak, the company employed 1,700 people. Matthew Myers, "Edward Ballman: King of Fort Smith Furniture Manufacturing," The Journal, Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., Vol 38, No. 1, p. 30.

[15]Tony Wappel & J B Hogan, The Square Book: An Illustrated History of the Fayetteville Square, 1828-2016, (Fayetteville, Arkansas: Anthony J. Wappel, 2017), p. 123.

[16]Ibid, p. 124.
[17]Deed record 261-189, Washington County Archives.
[18]Ibid.
[19] Deed record 253-171, Washington County Archives. It's worthy of note that four years earlier in 1923, McIlroy Bank's president, William Hayden McIlroy, had married the Brumfield daughter, Ethel Juanita Brumfield. The marriage lasted less than four years. Ethel initiated divorce proceedings in February 1927 on grounds of "indignities to her as to render her condition in life intolerable in that he treated her with rudeness, contempt, abuse and studied neglect..." The defendant McIlroy failed to appear "although thrice called" and was found in default. Property rights were agreed upon in lieu of alimony. Three months later on May 30, 1927, the court agreed to grant the petition of both parties to annul the judgement of divorce "so that the petitioners may resume their relations as husband and wife." The petition was granted and no further record of divorce is found. [Washington County Chancery Court Files, Case # 4270] However, McIlroy remarried in 1938 and Ethel remarried at some later point. Her grave memorial at Alexander in Saline County, Arkansas, names her spouse as William Thompson (1979).
[20]Deed record 281-378, Washington County Archives.
[21]Deed record 261-187, Washington County Archives.
[22]J. B. Hogan and Kirby L. Estes, "The Early History of Fayetteville Municipal Airport," Flashback, Journal of the Washington County Historical Society, Vol. 60 No. 2, Summer 2010, p. 37.
Available at http://www.fayetteville-ar.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4989/Early-History-of- Fayetteville-Airport?bidId
[23]Mary Ellen Johnson, "Johnson (Washington County)," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, last updated December 19, 2016, accessed August 8, 2014, http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1007
[24]"F. B. C. News," The Fayetteville Republic, May 26, 1932, p. 4.
[25] Attend Medical Meeting," The Journal-Advance, July 16, 1936, p. 3.
[26]"Hotel Group to Be Guests," Northwest Arkansas Times, June 5, 1941, p. 1.
[27]"Society News," Fayetteville Daily Democrat, July 22, 1936, p. 3.
[28]"Roy Brumfields Return from Eastern Trip," Northwest Arkansas Times, September 12, 1938, p. 3.
[29]Nora remarried in 1937, found in 1940 census records residing in Tulsa as Mrs. Hugh Hurd and later in Las Vegas, Nevada.
[30]The restored Davidson home appears on Google maps as 128 Davidson.
[31]"Senior Gallery Tours and Titles," Northwest Arkansas Times, February 14, 1939, p. 2.
[32]"Young Orator," Northwest Arkansas Times, June 1, 1940, p. 2.
[33]"Personal Mention," Northwest Arkansas Times, March 13, 1941, p. 3.
[34]"Personal Mention," Northwest Arkansas Times, February 21, 1944, p. 3.
[35]"Prairie Grove," Northwest Arkansas Times, March 6, 1943, p. 2.
[36]"Society News," Northwest Arkansas Times, May 11, 1940, p. 3.
[37]"'Bundles' Graduation Gifts Are Offered," Northwest Arkansas Times, May 22, 1941, p. 4.
[38]"Lt. Jack Brumfield Reported Missing," Northwest Arkansas Times, February 26,

1944, p. 1.

[39]Denele Campbell, Rex Perkins: A Biography (CreateSpace Publishing: 2015), p. 117.

[40]The southwest part of Block A later became home to Safeway and is now occupied by the Starlight Skatium.

[41]"Construction of 'Outpost Inn' Planned Here," Northwest Arkansas Times, March 26, 1947, p. 1.

[42]"Lively Session," Northwest Arkansas Times, April 1, 1947, p. 1.

[43]"Council To Hear Protests On New Buildings," Northwest Arkansas Times March 31, 1947, p. 1.

[44]"Ozarks Playground Association," Historic Joplin, accessed January 18, 2019, http://www.historicjoplin.org/?tag=ozarks-playground-association.

[45]"Hall Installed As President of Lions Club," Northwest Arkansas Times, July 7, 1950, p. 2.

[46]"Pie Supper To Raise Funds For Schools," Northwest Arkansas Times, November 7, 1951, p. 11.

[47]Remodeled in the early 2000s to house Lacuna Modern Furniture.

[48]Esther White (former secretary to Rex Perkins), in discussion with the author, January 30, 2019.

[49]Deed record 543-190, Washington County Archives.

[50]Deed record 543-199, Washington County Archives.

[51]Deed record 545-190, Washington County Archives. The fifteen trustees of the pension fund included the union's president, James R. "Jimmy" Hoffa.

[52]"New Mountain Inn Motor Lodge To Hold Open House Tomorrow," Northwest Arkansas Times, April 14, 1962, p. 9.

[53]Ibid.

[54]"Pacific Industries, Inc. v. Mountain Inn, Inc., 232 F. Supp. 801 No. 519 (W.D. Ark. 1964), US District Court for the Western District of Arkansas," August 26, 1964, Justia US Law, accessed August 3, 2018, https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/232/801/1748870/.

[55]Ibid.

[56]Deed Record 652-102, Washington County Archives.

[57] See "Mtn Inn – Lock, Stock, and Barrel – on Auction Block," Northwest Arkansas Times, September 15, 1964, p. 1.

[58]"Mountain Inn Not Due to Close," Northwest Arkansas Times, September 17, 1964, p. 3.

[59]Washington County Clerk's Office, Book L, Page 293.

[60]"Lawsuit Filed to Secure Note on Motor Lodge," Northwest Arkansas Times, March 15, 1972, p. 2.

[61]"Judge Rules Hotel Owner in Default," Northwest Arkansas Times, May 11, 1972, p. 2.

[62]The Washington Hotel site became a Woolworth's store.

[63]"Signs of Life Return to Empty Hotel," Northwest Arkansas Times, July 14, 1973, p. 9.

[64]"New Holiday Inn Swells City's Accommodations," Northwest Arkansas Times, May 8, 1962, p. 9.

[65]Richard Pool (previous club owner), in discussion with author February 3, 2019.

[66]Part of a large display ad with an image of the Inn. Northwest Arkansas Times, May

28, 1976, p. 24.

[67]Deed records 966-241, 966-259, and 966-266, Washington County Archives.

[68]Auction ad ran more than once in the Northwest Arkansas Times. This one ran September 8, 1967, p. 16.

[69]"Tech School Gets Specialist in Distributive Education," Northwest Arkansas Times, November 5, 1968, p. 10.

[70]"Credit Women Hold Breakfast," Northwest Arkansas Times, June 13, 1979, p. 5.

[71]With over 600 real estate transactions shown for Bassett in county archives, tracking the chain of ownership forward becomes a herculean task.

[72]Chris Brothers (former pianist and bartender at the Lodge from 1983 to 1986), in discussion with author, February 1, 2019.

[73]Various commentators in group discussion on social media, February 1, 2019.

[74]Blog post by unnamed person who explored the hotel in 2005, followed by comments, Underground Ozarks Blog, accessed January 15, 2019, http://undergroundozarks.com/blog/index.php/2005/01/22/mountain_inn.

[75]"Mountain Inn Property For Sale In Downtown Fayetteville," Fayetteville Flyer, accessed Jan 21, 2019, https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2014/04/10/mountain-inn-property-for-sale-in-downtown-fayetteville/.

[76]"Downtown Dreamer," Arkansas Democrat Gazette, accessed January 20, 2019, https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2011/jan/23/downtown-dreamer/

[77]"Ode To The Mountain Inn," Jay Speaks, accessed Jan 21, 2019, https://www.jayspeaks.com/ode_to_the_mountain_inn.htm .

[78]Jonah Tebbetts comment, "Mountain Inn Property For Sale In Downtown Fayetteville," Fayetteville Flyer, accessed Jan 21, 2019, https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2014/04/10/mountain-inn-property-for-sale-in-downtown-fayetteville/.

[79]Paul Becker (Chief Financial Officer, City of Fayetteville), in email to author, February 4, 2019.

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Washington County Historical Society

announces

Annual Competition for Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the 11th annual competition for the Walter J. Lemke Prize and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize with a call for submissions.

Topics can address any aspect of Washington County history, including archeology, lives of individuals, or records of institutions, and can be set in any time period. Both professional and amateur historians are invited to submit articles.

A $250 prize is offered in each of two categories: the Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article on Washington County history, with a preference given to subjects outside Fayetteville; and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize, with preference given for the best article about Fayetteville. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting in October.

Manuscripts will be judged on contribution to the expansion of the county's history; originality of the subject; and use of primary and secondary sources. Manuscripts must be original material, and not previously published; they must be typed, preferably include endnotes, and have a maximum length of 40 pages, not inclusive of endnotes. The title page should be headed: "WCHS Prize," followed by the manuscript's full title, and the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned. All submissions will be considered for publication in *Flashback*. WCHS reserves the right to award one or no prizes.

All submissions for both prizes will be deposited in the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries. Mail submissions to Lemke Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Alternatively, submissions–as well as any questions–can be emailed to Patsy Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu by June 30, 2020.

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